

DeSanty, Tricia

From: Brian Dickert
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 12:25 PM
To:
Subject: [External] Dominion Energy Solar Subsidies

March 4, 2021

Commissioner Ervin,

I am writing to you because I saw an online article regarding your statements about Dominion Energy's subsidy issues. I am in district 2, but I have concerns about what is happening in our state regarding energy. As you know, South Carolina has some of the highest rates in the country, and inexcusably, we've paid for the funding of the failed Santee Cooper nuclear facility.

In 1993 I purchased a historic home, built in 1902, in North Augusta. I have remodeled it, including adding lots of insulation, power efficient appliances, and other energy saving improvements; however, my rates continued to increase over my energy savings to the point I thought solar panels would enable me to be able to afford to continue to live there over time.

In 2017, I took out a personal loan, received less than 1/3 of it back in tax credits and got net metering from SCE&G. It will take me well into my retirement years for me to begin to recoup my personal costs. In addition to the panels supplementing my electric usage, I am also contributing to the production of electricity for all my neighbors, especially during peak hours.

I received a letter in January 2021 announcing a hearing about Dominion's request for rate increases and to alter the state's net metering structure. Due to slow mail delivery, I received the letter after the hearing. The letter was not very informative, but with internet searches, I was able to determine Dominion wanted to move the goal posts.

Dominion said I could apply to extend my net metering until 2029. I was uncertain about all the ramifications if I did or did not extend; so I contacted Dominion. The representative was kind, but knew little. She could not answer any of my questions, and neither she nor I could find out where I could even get an application to extend my net metering. Nothing was available on their website, and she said she would have somebody email me the application a week ago, and that has not happened yet. She also told me her supervisor heard her phone conversation, and said Covid had postponed hearings until July, so I wondered about all the other deadlines and hearings.

I don't have enough information. I based my Solar decisions on what structure existed at the time, and for Dominion to alter those terms now doesn't seem right. I am concerned I may never recoup my costs, but more importantly, not have affordable electricity as age moves me to a fixed income, if they change the structuring. I guess I am also looking for advocates in the commission. I would appreciate any comments or response.

Thank you for your time and work,

Brian Dickert

North Augusta, SC